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SCENES FROM A NANBAN SCREEN

These are the two rightmost segments of a famous twelve-part Japanese *byōbu* (screen) from the Momoyama period, painted by Kyoto artist Kanō Naizen (1570–1616) and reproduced here with the kind permission of the Kobe City Museum. In the center of the twelve-foot-long screen are portrayed two Portuguese *não*, or galleon-type ships, moored in a harbor (probably Nagasaki). From these ships, seamen and traders with their colored and white servants head for the Christian church. In front of a Japanese shop underneath the church, the missionaries with their friends and sympathizers as well as a Western-style dog await the exotic visitors who are led by a Portuguese captain underneath a huge silk parasol. The group is announced by the gentleman speaking to a Jesuit brother on the lower right of our reproduction. The missionaries in black robes are Jesuits (arrived in Japan in 1549), those in grey hooded robes Franciscans (in Japan since 1593).

In the temple that has been transformed into a Christian church by a cross on its roof, a priest in brocade robes reads mass at an altar adorned with the Virgin. In the building on the top left, a Jesuit missionary is seen reading instructions from a book.